AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 427 — Published by THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY New York City — June 30, 1930

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59.81,1 S (96.1)

HERPETOLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE WHITNEY SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION IV.[1] DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF LIZARDS FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (SCINCIDÆ)

BY CHARLES E. BURT

The new species diagnosed below were discovered during the recent identification of the enormous collection of lizards brought back by the Whitney South Sea Expedition. In order that these findings may be made immediately available to others working in the field, preliminary descriptions are offered here. Detailed accounts pertaining to the type specimens have been prepared, and these may be expected to appear at a later date.

Emoia murphyi, new species

TYPE SPECIMEN.—A. M. N. H. No. 41740; Salailua, Savaii Island, Samoan Group; collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition; young.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known only from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS.—A species closely allied to *E. samoensis*, differing chiefly in having 84 lamellæ under the fourth toe of the hind foot instead of 77 or less; 54 scales from the occiput to the base of the tail; 30 scales around the middle of the body; four supraoculars; dull grayish-olive above, darker posteriorly, with a few ill-defined dark and light spots present, particularly on the dorsolateral region; light blue below.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE SPECIMEN.—Total length, 205 mm.; tip of snout to vent, 73 mm.; tip of snout to anterior border of ear, 18 mm.; width of head, 12 mm.; front leg, 24 mm.; hind leg, 36 mm.

Named for my colleague, Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, Curator of Oceanic Birds at The American Museum of Natural History.

Emoia whitneyi, new species

TYPE SPECIMEN.—A. M. N. H. No. 44005; Shortland, Solomon Islands; collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition; young.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known only from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS.—A species closely allied to *E. tropidolepis* (Boulenger) of New Guinea, differing chiefly in the possession of more keels on the dorsal scales (five to seven instead of two to five, usually three) many of which are incomplete, vestigial or

[1]Three previous contributions to this series have appeared without numbers. These may be cited as follows: I. Schmidt, Karl P., 1921, 'A List of the Lizards Collected by R. H. Beck in the Southern Pacific, November, 1920, to May, 1921,' Copeia, CI, pp. 90–92; II. Schmidt, Karl P., 1922, 'Second Report on Lizards Secured by the Whitney South Sea Expedition,' Copeia, CIV, pp. 23–24; III. Ortenburger, A. I., 1923, 'Further Notes on Lizards Collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition,' Copeia, CXVII, pp. 59–60.

broken, instead of prominent, continuous and unbroken as shown in Boulenger's type illustration; 32 scales around the middle of the body (not 34 to 36); 33 lamellæ under the fourth toe of the hind foot; and (if Boulenger's type illustration is correct) 63 scales from the occiput to the base of the tail (not 46). There are four supraoculars and the ground color is brownish above, darker laterally, but light below.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE SPECIMEN.—Total length (undetermined), over 62 mm.; tail (broken), over 22 mm., the length of the stub; tip of snout to vent, 40 mm.; tip of snout to forelimb, 18 mm.; tip of snout to anterior border of ear, 11 mm.; width of head, 5.5 mm.; front leg, 14 mm.; hind leg, 22 mm.

Named for Mr. Harry Payne Whitney, whose support of the notable expedition which bears his name has resulted in the finding of all the new species described at this time.

Sphenomorphus taylori, new species

TYPE SPECIMEN.—A. M. N. H. No. 42018; Bougainville, Solomon Group; collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition; an adult male.

DISTRIBUTION.—Known only from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS.—Apparently a very distinct species, differing from the described forms of *Sphenomorphus*, and *Parotosaurus*, in the possession of the following combination of characters: five to seven supraoculars; two or more superimposed anterior loreals; numerous shields between the eye and the anterior loreals, just mentioned; supranasal plate present or absent; two frontoparietals; an interparietal; ear opening large, no lobules; scales smooth; two enlarged preanals; 53 to 55 scales around the middle of the body; 114 to 118 scales from the occiput to the base of the tail; 31 to 35 lamellæ under the fourth toe of the hind foot. Uniform dark brown above, obscurely mottled with transverse light markings on the sides; throat, upper chest, and under surface of tail uniform dark brown, but lighter than above, however; other ventral parts yellowish brown, with dark brown patches or spots.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE SPECIMEN.—Total length, 327 mm.; tip of snout to vent, 147 mm.; tip of snout to forelimb, 60 mm.; tip of snout to anterior border of ear, 30 mm.; width of head, 19 mm.; fore leg, 39 mm.; hind leg, 52 mm.

PARATYPE.—One specimen from the type locality.

Named for my friend, Dr. Edward H. Taylor, in appreciation of his splendid contributions to oriental herpetology.

Tribolonotus blanchardi, new species

TYPE SPECIMEN.—A. M. N. H. No. 43922; Choiseul, Solomon Islands; collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition; young.

DISTRIBUTION.—This form is apparently confined to the Solomon Islands where it occurs in a number of localities.

DIAGNOSIS.—A species easily distinguished from the forms of *Tribolonotus* inhabiting New Guinea (*novæ-guineæ* and *gracilis*) in having over twenty scales from the occiput to the base of the tail instead of about a dozen, not to mention other variations; and from *schmidti*, described below, in the possession of but a single longitudinal row of large mid-dorsal plates instead of a double one. The type speci-

men has four supraoculars; two large preanal shields; eight longitudinal series of large ventral plates at the middle of the body, all unicarinate; 43 scales from the preanal region to the large chin-shields; 32 large scales from the occiput to the base of the tail; one longitudinal row of large dorsal scales, this forking anteriorly just behind the occiput; and 22 lamellæ under the fourth toe of the hind foot.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE SPECIMEN.—Total length, 78 mm.; tip of snout to vent, 32 mm.; tip of snout to forelimb, 14 mm.; tip of snout to anterior border of ear, 7 mm.; width of head, 4 mm.; fore leg, 8 mm.; hind leg, 12 mm.

PARATYPES.—Two specimens from islands in the Solomon Group.

Named for my former teacher, Dr. Frank N. Blanchard, in appreciation of his well-known and excellent contributions to herpetological science.

Tribolonotus schmidti, new species

TYPE SPECIMEN.—A. M. N. H. No. 41860; Beagle, Solomon Islands; collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition; young.

DISTRIBUTION.—This form is apparently confined to the Solomon Islands where it occurs in a number of localities.

DIAGNOSIS.—A species easily distinguished from the forms of *Tribolonotus* inhabiting New Guinea (*novæ-guineæ* and *gracilis*) in having over twenty scales from the occiput to the base of the tail instead of about a dozen, not to mention other variations; and from *blanchardi*, described above, in the possession of a double row of large vertebral plates instead of but a single one. The type specimen has four supraoculars; two large preanal shields; eight longitudinal series of large ventral plates at the middle of the body; 35 scales from the preanal region to the large chin-shields; two longitudinal series of much enlarged dorsal scales; irregular-sized lateral scales, some granular, some enlarged; 29 scales from the occiput to the base of the tail; and 20 lamellæ under the fourth toe of the hind foot.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE SPECIMEN.—Total length, 88 mm.; tip of snout to vent, 39 mm.; tip of snout to forelimb, 16 mm.; tip of snout to anterior border or ear, 11 mm.; width of head, 7 mm.; front leg, 9 mm.; hind leg, 14 mm.

PARATYPES.—Two specimens from islands in the Solomon Group.

Named for my friend, Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, in appreciation of his excellent researches pertaining to the zoögeography of the reptiles.